

The search has been extended to the species of the formerly withdrawn claims and all species have now been searched. Applicants should change the status identifiers of all claims such that they no longer recite withdrawn.

All previous rejections are hereby withdrawn.

Claims 12-14, 17, 18, 21, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 12 recites a “device or machine” in the preamble but also recites two sliding surfaces sliding against each other and it is therefore unclear if a device or method is being claimed.

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 12-14, 17, 18, 21, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. These claims appear to be drawn simultaneously to a device as well as a method.

Claims 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The specification as filed does not enable the use of the graft copolymers with polysaccharide side chains in that nothing whatsoever is disclosed about how to make such graft copolymers.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Jeffrey C. Mullis at telephone number 571 272 1075.

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